

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF NORTH MIAMI
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF APPLICATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION RENTAL PROGRAM

The City of North Miami is an entitlement recipient of Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). A third round of an additional \$1 billion in NSP3 funds to all states along with a number of counties and local communities struggling to reverse the effects of the foreclosure crisis. Like the earlier rounds of NSP grants, these targeted funds will be used to purchase foreclosed homes at a discount and to rehabilitate or redevelop them in order to respond to rising foreclosures and falling home values. Through NSP3, the City received an allocation of \$1,173,374.

The City has received an application for Neighborhood Stabilization Rental Program from Elize Benabe, who is an employee of the City, working in the capacity of Customer Service Aide for the Department of Utility Billing. The Federal Government's Code of Federal Regulations, 24 CFR Section 92.356 (c) states that:

"(b) Conflicts Prohibited. The general rule is that no person described in paragraph (c) of this section who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to the NSP activities assisted under this part, or who are in a position to participate in a decision making process or gain inside information with regard to such activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from a NSP assisted activity or have a financial interest in any contract, or agreement with respect to a NSP assisted activity either for themselves or those with whom they have business or immediate family ties, during their tenure or one year thereafter . . ."

"(c) Persons Covered. The conflict of interest provisions of paragraph (b) of this section apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the participating jurisdiction, State recipient, or sub-recipients which are receiving NSP funds."

Exception

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may grant an exception to these provisions and allow Elize Benabe to participate in the rental program providing the City publicly discloses the nature of the potential conflict and an opinion from the City attorney that the interest for which we are seeking the exception is not in violation of State or Local law.

The potential conflict in this case arises from the fact that the aforementioned applicant is an employee of the City of North Miami and/or related to a City employee, and the City is a recipient NSP funding.

Regine Monestime, serving as City Attorney, has reviewed all documentation for this application and issued a legal opinion regarding the potential conflict of interest. In her opinion Elize Benabe application does not violate State or local law or any City administrative policies.

Public Comment

Residents are encouraged to review the complete opinion and provide written comments. Copies of the opinion are available for review at the Community Planning & Development Department, located at 12400 N.E. 8th Avenue, North Miami, Florida 33161 during regular business hours, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the 10-day period to commence on February 25th, 2015, and will end on March 7th, 2015. Comments may be submitted to the Community Planning & Development Department by mail, in person, or by e-mail to mjean-pharuns@northmiamifl.gov on or before March 7th, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please feel free to contact the Community Planning & Development Department at (305) 893-9825.

City of North Miami
Michael A. Etienne
City Clerk